

### AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 4 at line 20 with the following amended paragraph:

Oligofructans are a mixture of  $\beta$  (2→1) fructans formed by glucosyl or fructosyl units. The DP is generally between 2 and 10. Oligofructans can be produced by partial enzymatic hydrolysis of inulin or of starch, ~~or from other sources.~~

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 4 at line 24 with the following amended paragraph:

It has now surprisingly been found, and this constitutes another aspect of the invention, that inulin can be converted into a thermoplastically processable material by extrusion in the presence of water and/or of a plasticizer having hydroxyl groups such as glycerol and sorbitol or similar hydroxylated polyols which act at temperatures within the range of 80-200°C. The material thus produced can be processed by known techniques, such as, for example, extrusion and injection molding.